

April/May 1987

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WF Magazine™

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

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**WRESTLEMANIA III:
EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW**

**A GIANT CHALLENGE
FOR HULK HOGAN**

**PIPER RETIRES:
WIN, LOSE OR DRAW**

**BULLDOGS CRY FOUL!
DAVIS REFS: THE HART
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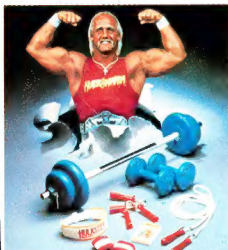


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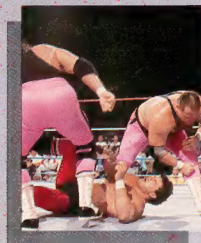
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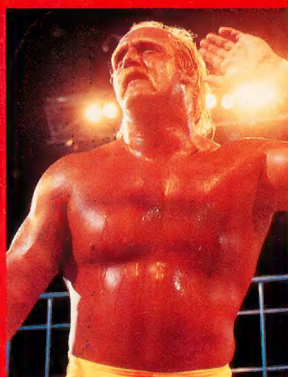
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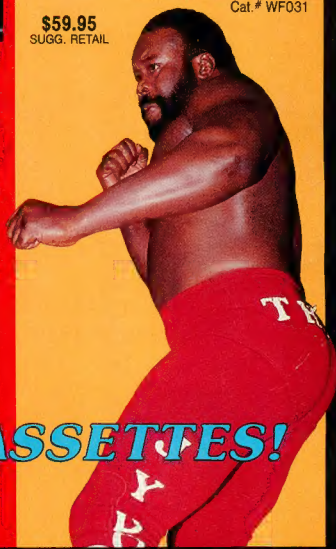
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Around The Ring

by Ed Ricciuti

An issue or so ago, we posed a question to our readers. Who, we asked, do you think is the quickest wrestler in the WWF? Well, lots of you took the question to heart. Letters giving your selections have come in by the bale.

Apparently, there is a difference of opinion about who is the quickest man in the ring today. Several different wrestlers were named. One man, however, was named in more letters than any other. He's the Dynamite Kid of the outstanding tag team, the British Bulldogs.

Here's what some of you had to say about him:

"He moves like lightning."

—Matt Tucci, Ogdensburgh, N.Y.

"The fastest wrestler in the WWF ring."

—Annie Simoni, Sterling Heights, Mich.

"A fast suplex."

—Steve Lovie, Cambridge, Ontario.

Other votes for the Kid came from (sorry, we can't mention all of the hundreds of people who chose him—we picked names by lot): Rex Morgart, Johnstown, Pa.; Adam Onstat, Norwalk, Iowa; Andy Schachter, Marlborough, Conn.; Lynda A. Fittipaldi, West Islip, N.Y.; Jeff Mallets, Lapeer, Mich.; and Danny Battista of Pittsburgh, Pa.

One other wrestler also garnered a pile of votes: Randy "Macho Man" Savage. Here's what some of you had to say about him:



Savage moves like a cat

"Without a doubt, Randy 'Macho Man' Savage."

—Carol Ann Kaminski, Jennifer Kaminski and Maryann Esposito, Jersey City, N.J.

"The way Savage climbs to the top rope reminds me of how fast a cat moves..."

—Joey Guinta, Philadelphia, Pa.

"Speed and agility help him hold his title."

—Mike Verceletto, Elmont, N.Y.

"His style of wrestling is awesome."

—Nick Cinnerella, Chicago, Ill.

"No other wrestler jumps from the top rope to the concrete floor."

—Jaime Ontiveros (*editor's note: next time, address on letter, please*).

"He is the quickest."

—Morgan Hassler, Randallstown, Md.

Ricky Steamboat also got a bunch of votes. Among those opting for the Dragon were Sam Bucci of Toronto, Ontario, and Rudy Arietta of Tappan, N.Y.

Leaping Lanny Poffo got votes, too, including those from Mr. and Mrs. Leo Bollei of Sterling Heights, Wis., and Joe Sherman of Warwick, R.I. Donna Lores of Spokane, Wash., and Jason McCright of Greenville, Pa., went for Jake "The Snake" Roberts. Koko B. Ware is

quickest in the eyes of Nathan Bilotta of Leominster, Mass. The Islanders' Tama was plugged by Joel Palmer (*address on letter, please*), who added, "No offense to Davey Boy Smith or the Dynamite Kid."

The quickest? "Tito Santana," says Leticia Zepeda of Los Angeles, Calif. "Roddy Piper," contends Dominic Verda of St. Louis, Mo., and Jeannie Chung of Flushing, N.Y.

Daniel P. Carroll of Buffalo, N.Y., is emphatic. "The quickest man in the WWF (*editor's note: he wrote it in big letters*) is Hulk Hogan."

There were many more opinions, but space does not permit them to be printed here. Thanks to everybody who wrote. Knowing who you thought was quickest was very interesting to the editors. We still really can't say for sure which WWF athlete has the quickest moves. Perhaps quickness, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Very likely someone out there thinks that King Kong Bundy is a speed demon.



Santana's flying elbow smash

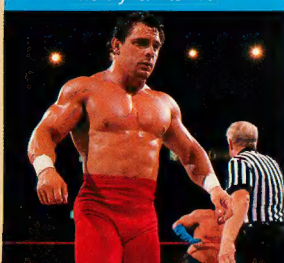
Next question we'd like to ask is (and we're sure you have strong opinions on this):

Which WWF wrestler has the best mastery of scientific technique?

We'd like to hear from you.

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The Dynamite Kid



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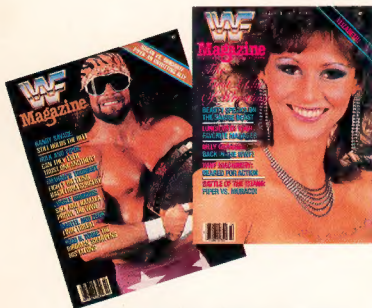
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WWF LOWDOWN

Just about everybody, it seems, loves Elizabeth, the beautiful and classy manager of World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Champion Randy "Macho Man" Savage. The attraction she has for wrestling fans is evident each time she accompanies the strutting, posturing Savage into the ring. Savage is greeted by catcalls and booing. Elizabeth receives a roar of approval and admiration.

Elizabeth's magnetism was further revealed last fall, when her photograph graced the cover of the October-November issue of this magazine. That issue sold a record-breaking number of copies.



When she heard the news from the editors, Elizabeth expressed her pleasure, although modestly, as is her way. Savage only grunted, then snarled at her, "we've got things to do, enough of this garbage."

His reaction could have been prompted merely by the surliness that typifies his character. But insiders say that there was more to it than that. Privately, Savage is green with envy over the popularity of the issue that featured his gorgeous manager. Publicly, he scoffs at the whole idea. "Who cares about a magazine cover?" he says. "There are clowns out there who'll buy anything."

Ironically, however, Savage does care about magazine covers.

Maybe not all of them, but one in particular. It's the cover of this publication's last issue (February-March). Pictured there with leering face and bulging muscles was none other than the scoffer himself, in all his Macho glory. It is Savage's hope that the last issue outsold Elizabeth's.

The word is that Savage can hardly restrain himself from contacting our staff and inquiring about February-March circulation figures (they are not in yet). Well, Randy, if that's the case, we'll let you know as soon as we do. Then you can either crow about it or, as the case may be, eat crow.

* * *

Outback Jack, the new WWF entry from Down Under in Australia, has quickly established the fact that he is one rugged dude. No wonder. He has lived his life in the Aussie back country with some of the most cantankerous critters on God's good earth. The rivers and swamps of Jack's Outback are the home of one of the most dangerous animals alive today, the saltwater crocodile. This scaly brute — it actually swims far out to sea — is a proven man-eater, more so than any other croc in the world. It can reach a length of more than 25 feet and, when the

need arises, can move as fast as lightning.

The Outback also is alive with poisonous snakes. Australia, in fact, is the only continent with more poisonous than non-poisonous serpents. Sixty percent of the snakes that live there come armed with venom. Among them are the death adder, the tiger snake and the taipan. The taipan is a candidate for the world's most deadly snake.

Growing up with neighbors like these has given Jack steely courage and an unflappable disposition.

* * *

Harley Race's reign as King of the Ring has been marked by continual controversy. Word is that several top WWFers — including some who have lost to Race because of underhanded tactics by the King and his manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan — have



sworn to bring down Harley's rule. They feel that sooner or later one of them will dethrone Race and strip him of his royal purple. Junk Yard Dog looks forward to the opportunity in *WrestleMania III*. Whoever loses must kneel and pay homage. Either Harley retains the crown, or a new King of the Ring will be crowned." **WF**



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A *WrestleMania III* Confrontation Looms Between Savage And Steamboat Because Of This

BATTLE OF THE TITANS

Periodically, during the tumultuous history of the World Wrestling Federation, men have arisen who seem predestined to meet in a colossal confrontation, out of which only one would emerge with honor intact. So it is with Randy "Macho Man" Savage, who reigns as WWF Intercontinental Champion, and Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat, fiery master of the martial arts who has earned the admiration and love of fans for his courage in the face of adversity. Savage and Steamboat will go head-to-head at *WrestleMania III* in a bout that

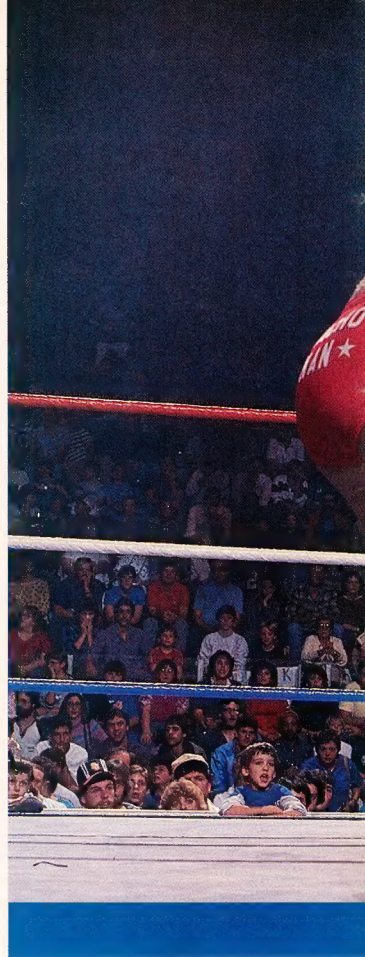
promises to be the stuff of legends. There will be no quarter asked or given.

Looking back on their WWF careers, it now seems there was no way that their paths should not cross in a violent and emotional manner. Events dictated that they would clash head-on, with all the marbles at stake, and *WrestleMania III* provides the arena appropriate for such a collision.

Despite differing approaches to the ring and life in general, Savage and Steamboat share some similar traits. Both are young, with bodies

honed into sculpted muscle by tireless pumping of iron. Both have inner reserves of power and fortitude that they have drawn upon time and time again when defeat seemed imminent—and they have emerged victorious. And both have demonstrated that they can survive assaults by adversaries that would lay most wrestlers low—or even put them out of the sport forever. The difference is that Savage has a mean streak and no qualms about hitting below the belt, while Steamboat opts for fair play unless crossed.

Savage and Steamboat came





Steamboat, right, and Savage lock up in a torrid test of strength. In WrestleMania III, they will test one another to the ultimate degree.

into the WWF at about the same time. They quickly made their reputations, rising to the heights of ring glory. Promoters saw them as a first-class match-up, especially after Savage took the Intercontinental Title. Steamboat, in his own words, saw the chance at the title shot as "the opportunity of a lifetime." And so, late last year, the Macho Man and the Dragon met under the ring lights and in front of a national television audience. Millions of viewers watched as the Macho Man truly turned "Savage."

The match was all it had been

cracked up to be, a rugged, brutal battle from the opening bell. But it was not the final showdown between the two ring warriors. Rather, it triggered events that have led to the cataclysmic clash between these two superb athletes that will occur in *WrestleMania III*.

Savage entered the arena first, clad in shimmering red and silver, colors that complemented those worn by his luscious female manager, Elizabeth. He was greeted by jeers and boos but, as always when the Macho Man strides toward the ring, a sense of high excitement passed through the

crowd.

Next came Steamboat, to the uproarious cheering of the fans. He waved and shook hands that were offered as he passed along the aisle to the ring. He seemed at ease, but a closer look showed that his eyes glinted like the cold steel of a *katana*, the long sword of the Samurai.

Once the bell sounded, neither Savage nor Steamboat wasted any time. They locked up, broke, then went for a test of strength. Fingers locked and arms upraised, they strained mightily against one another, their muscles corded and



Down goes Savage after an armdrag by Steamboat. Ricky worked consistently on the Macho man's arm.

rippling with effort. The test was inconclusive, with neither man getting the clear edge.

For a few moments the two fenced, then Steamboat began a strategy that he would follow for the rest of the bout. He started to concentrate on Savage's arm. First, Steamboat ripped Savage to the canvas with an armdrag. Before the Macho One could recover, Steamboat scooped him up, raised him in the air and slammed him thunderously to the mat. Savage recovered but, in a flash, the Dragon went back to his original plan. He wrapped his powerful hands around Savage's arm and whipped him down again with

another armdrag.

Savage was dazed, his eyes showing his confusion as Steamboat moved like a whirlwind. Almost quicker than the eye could follow, Steamboat went in deep and locked up Savage's arm, exerting enormous and painful pressure at the shoulder.

A glimmer of what might have been fear—or at least worry—flickered in Savage's squinty eyes. He was headed for trouble, and he knew it. So, resorting to dirty fighting, Savage yanked Steamboat off by the hair.

Dave Hebner, the referee, cautioned Savage, who sneered in reply. Savage danced out of

Steamboat's range for a moment and shook the feeling back into his numbed arm. Ready for action again, Randy rocketed off the ropes with a shoulder block, which Steamboat easily evaded by leap-frogging. Angered, Savage tried again, with a similarly frustrating result.

Clearly, Steamboat was having the better night. While Savage paused as if to figure out new tactics, Steamboat went for the arm again. As Randy reached out, Steamboat suckered him into an armdrag and threw him to the mat. Again, Steamboat locked up the arm, putting on the pressure. Fans sensed that no one, not even the



Coming off the ropes, Steamboat blasts Savage with a flying bodypress.

mighty Randy Savage, could take such concentrated punishment on the arm for very long.

So Randy grabbed a hank of Steamboat's black hair again and broke the lock. On their feet, the two tore into one another. Savage fainted, then took Ricky's head and smacked his face into the turnbuckle. With Steamboat down, Savage unloaded with a kneedrop.

As Steamboat tried to get to his feet, shaking his head to clear it, Savage leaped to the top rope and bombed down on the Dragon

with an elbow, laying Steamboat flat. Like a cat, Savage went for the cover, but Steamboat still had the strength to kick out.

Staggering to his feet, Steamboat seemed easy prey for an Irish whip by the Macho Man, but the Dragon still had his wits about him and reversed it. Savage hit the ropes but, using his incredible speed and skill, flew back with a flying bodypress that sent the two men hurling across the ring into the turnbuckle.

Savage growled, then again

tried to bash Steamboat's face into the buckle but, with reflexes sharpened by martial arts, Ricky reversed it. Splat! The Macho puss hit the buckle. As Randy grimaced in pain, Steamboat took a tactic from his enemy and mounted the top rope. From there, Ricky launched himself into the air and smashed Savage with an elbow.

Steamboat was obviously losing his temper for, instead of going for a pin, he tried to punish Savage with several martial arts strikes. Savage countered, grabbed



Cold, calculated brutality. Savage bashes Steamboat's neck on the ringside railing.

Steamboat's arm and tossed him out of the ring. As if he were made of rubber, Steamboat bounced back and, as he entered the ring, went for a sunset flip on Savage. The crafty Macho Man thwarted the Dragon by grabbing the ropes and shoved Steamboat from the ring once more.

Ricky landed easily, then, as if on springs, rocketed over the top

rope, careened into Savage, flattened the Macho Man before the look of surprise on his face had passed and covered for the pinfall. Though stunned, Savage had not been hurt badly and kicked out from under Steamboat.

Again, both men regained their feet. Savage launched himself toward Steamboat in a try for a shoulder block, but the agile

Dragon leapfrogged. And then something happened that looked like an accident but may have been a canny and clever maneuver by Savage. As Steamboat went over him, Savage banged into the referee, sending Hebner stunned to the mat.

While this occurred, Steamboat had spun around after landing from his leapfrog and, in a giant stride,



Hauling Ricky back into the ring, Savage prepares for another vicious assault on Steamboat's throat. This time, Savage used the ring bell as a weapon.

leaped to the top rope. As Savage turned to face him, Steamboat went airborne and hit Randy with a flying bodypress. The Macho Man's body smashed into the mat with Ricky atop him, knocking the wind out of Randy. Steamboat hooked Savage's leg and pressed his shoulders to the canvas.

The bout should have ended, with Steamboat emerging as the new titlist. But Hebner was still groggy and seemed unable to comprehend what was happening. And then the unbelievable happened. From ringside, where he had been observing the match, the controversial, enigmatic Danny Davis — ref now turned wrestler —

vaulted through the ropes and hauled Hebner away from the wrestlers.

By then, Savage had broken free, and Steamboat was on his feet. The Dragon, a look of incredulity on his face, looked in astonishment and protest at Davis and Hebner. That moment of distraction on Steamboat's part was all Savage needed. Leering, Savage crept up on Ricky's unprotected back and drove home a kick to the kidneys that looked as if it would break Steamboat in two. Steamboat fell, and Savage dragged him out of the ring by the hair.

The pulverizing power of

Savage's kick had rendered Steamboat almost helpless. The Dragon's face contorted with pain, as though a saber had been driven through his middle. Savage hauled the limp form of Steamboat to the railing surrounding the ring area. And then Savage began a series of acts that are unsurpassed in ring annals for their calculated cruelty.

Smirking, Savage draped Ricky face down over the iron railing so that his neck lay over the rail. Reeking a cold brutality, Savage picked up Steamboat's head and then brought it down, ramming his neck into the rail. Steamboat's eyelids fluttered. His mouth



Gagging, choking and unable to speak, Steamboat is carried from the ring. But he would be back, and after Savage's title.

twitched, and for a moment his body thrashed. Then he was still. Pantherlike, Savage climbed back to the ring and stood poised atop the ropes. Savage paused, eyes alight with fierce glee, then knifed down on Steamboat and drove an elbow into the back of the Dragon's exposed neck.

Almost dancing in vicious delight, Savage jumped back into the ring, where referee Hebner was coming to his senses. The first thing the official saw was Savage in the ring and Steamboat outside, clutching his brutalized throat in pain and gagging in a vain attempt to breathe. The referee acted. He counted Steamboat out.

Steamboat was semi-conscious, staggering on his feet, unable to comprehend the count. Once the referee had finished, Savage ran to Steamboat, grabbed him by the hair and yanked him up to the ring apron. Then the Macho Man dragged his beaten victim back

into the ring.

Savage had triumphed. Steamboat was flat on his back in the middle of the ring for all the world to see. But Savage was not finished. His hidden jealousy of the popular Steamboat surfaced. Savage raced out of the ring and grabbed the timekeeper's bell. Clutching it in his hands, he climbed again to the top rope and dove upon Steamboat, bringing the bell down with shattering force on his neck. The referee tried to stop the carnage, but Savage shoved him off and mounted the ropes again. This time, Hebner grabbed the ropes and shook them until Savage was forced to jump down. Raging like a beast, Savage glared at the agonized Steamboat, lying on his back and grabbing at his throat. Then the Macho Man arrogantly strode to the dressing room.

Steamboat, meanwhile, appeared on his last legs. His

tongue protruded from his mouth. His face turned a frightening purple. He clearly could barely get enough air. The referee, frightened, called security guards and medics. They placed Steamboat on a stretcher and took him to the safety of his dressing room. His wife, Bonnie, who had witnessed the attack from the audience, wept at Ricky's side.

Moments later, Ricky was rushed to the hospital. Physicians determined that his larynx—the voice box—had been damaged, perhaps crushed, so severely they were worried he might never speak again. Steamboat went into seclusion, under the care of top physicians. Slowly, ever so slowly, he recovered. "He has incredible powers of recuperation," says one doctor. "Maybe his training in martial arts helped. He seemed to turn in on himself and take strength from that."

Steamboat attributes his recovery to his driving desire to revenge himself against Savage and demonstrate that dirty tactics do not ultimately result in wrestling fame. "Savage turned into an animal in the ring," says Steamboat. "He wanted to maim, not just win. He wanted to finish my career. He didn't. And now he must pay—he must reckon with the Dragon."

By January, the Dragon was back, seemingly fit as ever. But there was a subtle change in his personality. Friends detected a hardness they had not noticed before. A cold look in the eyes. A set of the jaw that revealed intense tension like magma building up within a volcano about to erupt. And his friends learned quickly not to mention Randy Savage. "Try it," says one. "The look on his face will send chills up your spine."

Randy Savage may have thought that he ended Steamboat's career. But instead he ignited a fire in the breast of the Dragon. A fire that will burn with cold fury when Savage and Steamboat step between the ropes in *WrestleMania III*. **WF**



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A Talk With:

DANNY DAVIS

Just short months ago, the name Danny Davis was not exactly a household word. Davis was one of the World Wrestling Federation's officiating crew and, like other referees, kept in the background, performing his duties in a workmanlike but unobtrusive manner. Then, late last year, Davis' actions in the ring began to change. Increasingly, he interjected himself into events in the ring so that his actions went beyond the bounds of officiating and unduly influenced the outcome of bouts.

His behavior quickly made him famous or, rather, infamous. Davis garnered the anger of fans and the criticism of WWF authorities. The more he was criticized, the more unprofessional his officiating became.

Finally, in a match that saw the WWF Tag Team Championship pass from the British Bulldogs to the Hart Foundation, Davis' sense of professionalism seemed to totally vanish. Most observers feel that Davis tilted the outcome in behalf of the Foundation and that, but for him,

the Bulldogs would still be champions. WWF President Jack Tunney apparently agreed because he barred Davis from officiating for life.

The crafty Davis, however, made an end run around Tunney. Joining up with the Foundation's manager, Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, Davis obtained a license to wrestle and has now donned wrestling tights.

Since he changed from ref to wrestler, Davis has refused to talk with the press, except for this exclusive interview with WWF Magazine Executive Editor Ed Ricciuti.



WWF: You have become one of the most controversial—and, let's admit it, disliked—people in professional wrestling. Do you feel any remorse?

Davis: Why should I? I'm right; Tunney and the rest of them are wrong. I'm not sorry. I'll never be sorry.

WWF: You say you've done nothing wrong. During WWF televised matches it has been clear to millions that you have "looked the other way" when certain wrestlers or teams engaged in underhanded tactics. It has also seemed that you intentionally interrupted count-outs, feigning distraction from outside the ring. Tito Santana was the victim of one of these calls. More than once, you gave Neidhart and Hart a clear advantage, going so far as to physically restrain a member of the other tag team. And now, the latest incident of interfering in a championship match. Don't you think Tunney was justified in banning you? Indeed, a referee must be above reproach.

Davis: Justified! Absolutely not! Tunney favors the Bulldogs; he always has. After all, they are his fellow countrymen. When his precious pets lost the title, he needed somebody to blame. So he took it out on me. He also doesn't like me because I'm my own man. Tunney doesn't own me. Nobody does.

WWF: What about the title bout? Do you think you were really fair?

Davis: Fair? You wanna talk about fair? I called the bout the way I saw it, and Tunney slaps me down. Is that fair?

WWF: You're evading the question. Did you bend the rules in favor of the Hart Foundation?

Davis: Wait a minute. This was supposed to be an objective interview. Are you in Tunney's pocket, too? You said this was supposed to be a story about my new career. Don't try anything funny with me

or you'll be sorry, just like Tunney will.

WWF: OK. We'll talk about your career. But, being barred as a referee is part of the story. Would you have become a wrestler if Tunney had not banned you from further officiating?

Davis: Maybe. Maybe not. But it doesn't matter. I'm wrestling now. And I've got Jimmy Hart as a manager. Tunney is going to have to live with that, even if he can't stand it.

WWF: When Tunney came down on you, you said you'd get even. You said it on national television, so you can't deny it. How can you expect that as a wrestler you can do anything that will damage the WWF's president? And, do you still want to do it?

Davis: Did Tunney tell you to ask that?

WWF: Not at all; we're totally impartial.

Davis: Yeah, just like (Bruno) Sammartino and (Vince) McMahon. They stick it to me every time they can while announcing the matches. Anyway, yeah, I want to get Tunney. And there are plenty of ways to do it.

WWF: Like what?

Davis: That's for me to know and Tunney to worry about.

WWF: The fact that Hart took you under his wing right after his Foundation won the title from the Bulldogs might indicate to some people that a deal was in the works between the two of you for a long time. Is that true?

Davis: How'd you like a knuckle sandwich? You're accusing me of being a crook. Another question like that and this interview is over.

WWF: Well, let's try again. Why did you sign up with Hart? Why not somebody else, like Slick, for instance, or Johnny V?

Davis: Jimmy Hart is a great manager. He took Bret and Jim to the title (Bret "Hit Man" Hart and Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart,



the Hart Foundation). I think he'll take me places, too.

WWF: As an ex-referee, how do you think you'll be treated in the ring by your former colleagues?

Davis: Why should they treat me any different? I'm a wrestler now. What's the matter? Do you think that some of Tunney's refs would be unfair? According to you, WWF referees are above reproach.

WWF: Can we say that you are a wrestler who will abide by the rules of good sportsmanship?

Davis: Sportsmanship? Like Tunney's kind of sportsmanship? I'm wrestling to win.

WWF: You keep coming back to Tunney. You really have it in for him, don't you?

WWF: Why shouldn't I? He stiffed me.

WWF: Say what you want, but it still appears you were less than professional in that title match. Do you still deny that?

Davis: This interview is over, chump. **WF**

HULK VS. ANDRE

"Three Years Is A Long Time"

It was World Wrestling Federation Champion Hulk Hogan as no one had ever before seen him. He was shaken, distraught. His eyes were wide with shock. His lip trembled. And his voice quavered as he pleaded desperately, "Andre, please. This isn't happening. No. No." Staring down at Hogan, in front of an international television audience, Andre the Giant—the champion's dearest friend and role model—was unmoved. His craggy features seemed set in stone. Not one trace of emotion could be seen on his face. Nor could even a hint of pity be detected there.

Hogan seemed almost frantic. He shook his head repeatedly as if to rid himself of a nightmare, then imploringly reached for the mighty shoulders of the Giant, who loomed over him. Andre's response sent a chill of fear through the millions watching the drama on the WWF's *Pit* program.

"Take your hands off my shoulders," rumbled Andre, his tone full of menace. Hogan dropped his hands as if he had touched white-hot steel. He lowered his head in anguish. Andre put a hamlike hand under the champion's chin and lifted it as though admonishing a child. "Look at me when I talk to you," he said. The Giant's words sounded like thunder deep in the bowels of a volcano ready to erupt. Then he uttered what Hogan had never thought he would hear from the mountainous Frenchman, "I'm here to chal-

lenge you to a championship match in *WrestleMania III*."

To make his point, the Giant then subjected Hogan to the ultimate indignity. Reaching out a gargantuan hand, Andre ripped Hogan's shirt from his body and tore loose the chain with the gold cross that the Hulkster wears around his neck.

The Giant stalked off the set, accompanied by his new manager, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan, whose surprise appearance on the program with Andre had triggered the entire chain of events. Hogan sank to his knees to gather up the shreds of his shirt and his broken chain. *Pit* host Rowdy Roddy Piper knelt by Hogan and said softly and unbelievably, "Hogan, you're bleeding."

As *WrestleMania III* approaches, fans and ring observers around the world continue to analyze the circumstances that will culminate in the titanic meeting between the huge Frenchman and the World Champion in Michigan's Pontiac Silverdome. The beginnings are still cloudy, but it appears that somehow Bobby Heenan got to Andre and played upon his apparent deep disappointment, held within for years, that he never had owned the World Championship.

Heenan fanned Andre's disappointment into resentment, then anger which, like the final challenge, surfaced on *Piper's Pit*. Hogan was presented with a trophy commemorating his three-year reign (Andre also got a

Andre put a hamlike hand under the champion's chin and lifted it as though admonishing a child. "Look at me when I talk to you...I'm here to challenge you to a championship match in *WrestleMania III*."

smaller one for his exploits). On hand for the presentation, Andre was uncharacteristically cool to Hogan and, instead of congratulating him, merely mumbled, "Three years is a long time to be champion." No one was sure what he meant then. Now the world knows.

A week later the WWF presented Andre with a beautiful trophy acknowledging him as the world's greatest athlete who has never been defeated. Appropriately, in recognition of the champion's status, Andre's trophy was slightly smaller than Hulk's. As the Giant had done for Hogan, Hogan came onto the *Pit* set to congratulate Andre, but Andre stalked off.

Meanwhile, WWF commentator Jesse "The Body" Ventura was eaten up with curiosity about what Andre was up to. He proposed a meeting between the Giant and Hogan on the *Pit*. Ven-





A frightening new Andre proves his point

tura was to produce Andre; Piper, to bring Hogan; and the whole issue would be aired in public. What nobody, not even Ventura, knew was that Heenan already had taken Andre under his dark wing and would arrive with him on the Pit.

When an unsuspecting Hogan saw Heenan walk on stage, he was stunned. "You can't be here with him," the Hulkster said to the Giant. "Don't you know what he's tried to do to me?" (Heenan has engineered many schemes to bring down the champion.) Heenan snickered and smirked at the champ's anguish. Referring to the trophy incident, the crafty manager accused Hulk: "You stole Andre's moment."

Heenan's strategy was revealed by that remark. Repeatedly, he has tried to destroy Hogan, using all the weapons his stable of grapplers can provide. Against Hogan, Heenan has unleashed the likes of King Kong Bundy, Big John Studd, Hercules Hernandez and Paul "Mr. Wonder-

Andre ripped Hogan's shirt from his body and tore loose the chain with the gold cross that the Hulkster wears around his neck. Hogan sank to his knees to gather up the shreds of his shirt and his broken chain. Rowdy Roddy Piper knelt by Hogan and said softly and unbelievably, "Hogan you're bleeding."



Piper watches a shattered Hogan retrieve his belongings

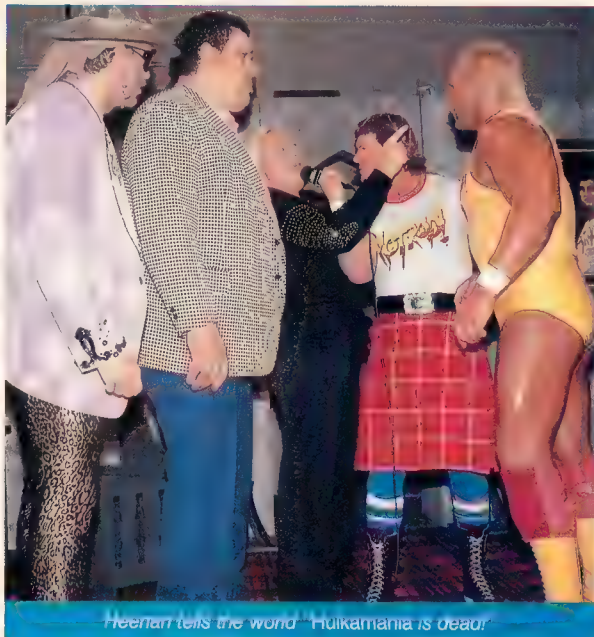


Jesse surveys the trophies that fueled the feud.

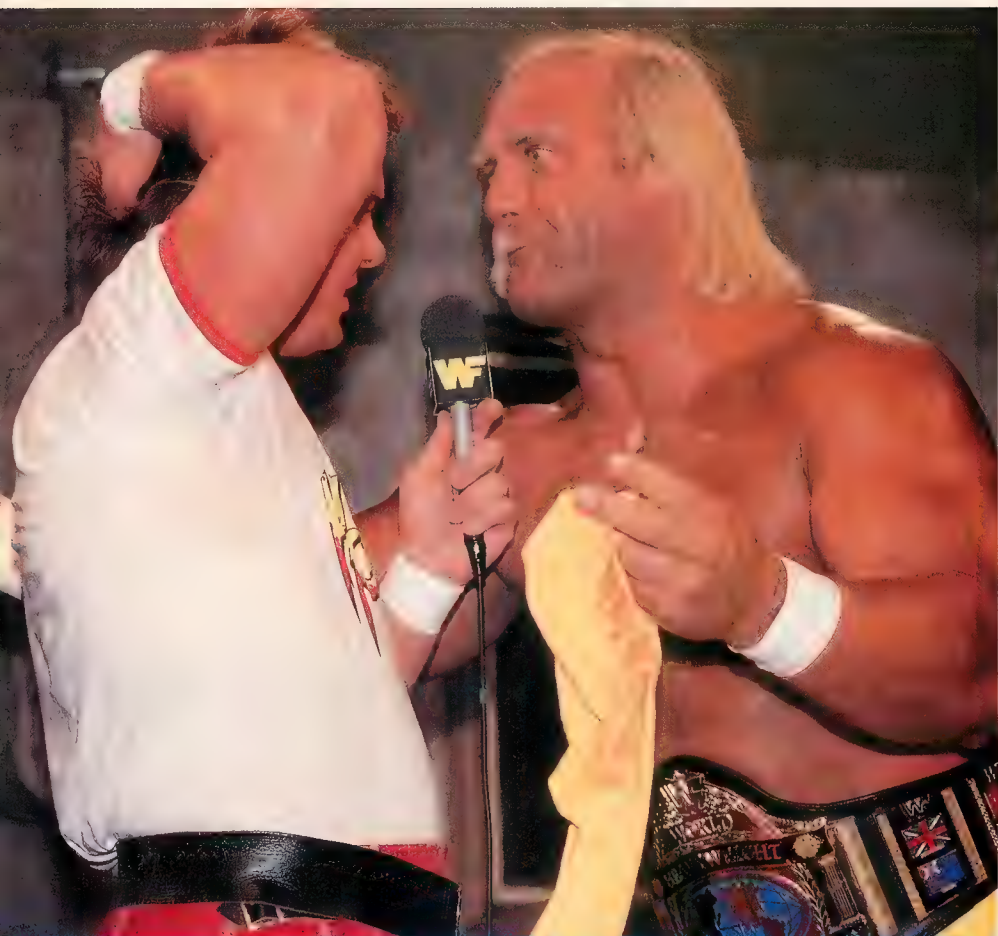
Jesse "The Body" Ventura proposed a meeting between the Giant and Hogan on the *Pit*. Ventura was to produce Andre; Piper, to bring Hogan; and the whole issue would be aired in public. What nobody, not even Ventura, knew was that Heenan already had taken Andre under his dark wing and would arrive with him on the *Pit*...

ful" Orndorff. He has come close but never gained victory. In Andre, Heenan saw his ultimate weapon—the Eighth Wonder of the World, the man who never has known defeat in the ring, a goliath who far outmatches Hogan in size and strength. The problem was that Andre and Hogan were fast friends. Andre had exulted in Hogan's championship. Hogan had modeled himself after the Giant, seeing in him a man of courage, honor and sportsmanship. So Heenan set out to find a wedge that would drive the two apart. He found it in the desire for championship recognition that grew like an evil seed within Andre. And once he found it, Heenan exploited it, feeding Andre's ambition and envy.

When it all came down on Piper's *Pit*, the shock left Hogan emotionally and psychologically drained. For the first time in his career, he seemed totally at loose ends, almost unable to function. Nothing so terrible as Andre's betrayal had ever happened to him.



Heenan tells the world: "Hulkamania is dead."



Hogan wrestles to explain Andre's treachery

Had Hogan remained in such a state, he would have been a pushover for the Giant. But, as he does when suffering reverses during a match, Hogan looked deep within himself for help. His fighting spirit was down but not out. He put personal grief aside. He steeled himself to do battle with the man he had truly revered. He remembered his legions of Hulkamaniacs and how their hopes would be destroyed if he lost the title.

Following his humiliation on *Piper's Pit*, Hogan made a second appearance to answer Piper's queries about what truly had happened. The champion had not yet accepted the challenge. Hogan was still stunned. He looked at Piper and said, "I knew I could never be as big as Andre, but I patterned my whole life after him." With anguish in his eyes, the champion continued, "When he pulled my shirt off, man, and ripped the cross off my

chest, he dug in and tore my heart out. Why didn't he just take a stake and drive it into my heart? He's with Heenan now. It's all different. He's different."

And now Piper pressed, "I know you. You're a man. Look me in the eye and answer me. Will you wrestle Andre the Giant for the championship in *WrestleMania III*?"

Hogan bowed his head momentarily. Then he lifted it and gazed upward. His face flushed with emotion. The old fire flick-



From despair, courage as Hogan accepts the Giant's challenge

ered in his eyes again, then blazed. The corded muscles in his neck working, Hogan opened his mouth and, like a lion roaring his defiance, uttered a single, mighty word, "Y-e-e-e-s!"

In the weeks that have followed, Hogan has renewed him-

self, training with passion and deadly seriousness. Perhaps as a way of forgetting his hurt, he has immersed himself in preparation for the battle of his life. He has forced himself to think only of one thing—victory.

Hogan must indeed train as

Piper pressed, "I know you. You're a man. Look me in the eye and answer me. Will you wrestle Andre the Giant for the championship in *WrestleMania III*?"

Hogan bowed his head momentarily. Then he lifted it and gazed upward. His face flushed with emotion. The old fire flickered in his eyes again, then blazed. The corded muscles in his neck working, Hogan opened his mouth and, like a lion roaring his defiance, uttered a single, mighty word, "Y-e-e-e-s!"

never before, not only his body but his mind. Andre will be utterly ruthless. When Hogan looks across the ring at his old friend-turned-deadly-enemy, the champion cannot let himself feel even a twinge of sympathy for the Giant. Hogan's mind must be focused only on combat. His emotions must be like ice. For mind and heart, as well as body, it will be Hogan's ultimate test. **WF**

ANDRE THE GIANT:

A Retrospective

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

Andre the Giant began his wrestling career without having to worry about establishing "visibility." No one could miss the "eighth wonder of the world."

And no one could beat him either. After 15 years on the mat, Andre remains the only titan in the sport never to suffer a pinfall or submission loss. So many have tried to chop down this 7-foot-5 redwood tree of a man—fellow mastodons like King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd, devilish strategists like Rowdy Roddy Piper and Jake "The Snake" Roberts. *He has to have a weakness, they said. No man is infallible.* Andre was.

The wrecking ball from Grenoble, France, has reaped more from the sport than almost anybody except WWF Champion Hulk Hogan, and Andre has been in the public eye longer. Magazines like *Sports Illustrated* and *Reader's Digest* have run features on him. He is owner of one of America's finest wine cellars and a sprawling horse farm. For years he has been "the people's champion." He never felt compelled to have the championship belt strapped around his waist. He was his own champion and was content to travel the world crushing all opponents in his path. Glory was not his goal.

Before Andre ever crossed the Atlantic, he was a legend. He reigned over the schoolyard, a 6-foot-3-inch, 200-pound 12-year-

old. By his late teens, he was a professional athlete. Recalls WWF commentator Lord Alfred Hayes: "My own association with him goes back to the start of his fabulous career. It was quite a surprise when I was asked by a promoter in western Europe during the mid-'60s if I would pick up a young man in France who was to wrestle in just his second professional match. I was aware that this 17-year-old was an excellent soccer and rugby player, but I was not prepared to meet a 6-foot-10, 290-pound youngster."

Andre grew in size and celebrity. In North America, he gravitated to French-speaking Montreal but was soon too much of an attraction to be confined to Quebec's rings. He preferred playing by the rules, his kneedrop was unmatched, and he could monkey flip and apply leg scissors to two foes at once. But opponents knew that scientific tactics wouldn't slow Andre and, as they resorted to underhanded tactics, he was forced to fight fire with fire. In his mighty grip, the hardest jaws seemed like fragile porcelain. His skull, hard enough to clang church bells, made a head butt devastating. Many men felt and feared the bone-crushing power of those mighty arms when hoisted off their feet in a giant bear hug.

In battle royals, Andre would find himself alone in the ring against a dozen or more adversaries. They'd plot, and they'd charge the largest target. Andre relished the challenge, sometimes showing off his broad smile



"Three years is a long time." Appearing trophy for his three-year reign as champion, offered as congratulations. Andre then was astonished, even shocked.



Andre, near the far right, with opponents in the Wrestling



on Piper's Pit after Hogan was given a. Andre muttered that phrase. It was not talked off the set so abruptly that Hulk Andre had planted the seed.



Hogan drips champagne after a joyful dousing by Andre on the night the Hulkster took the title from the Iron Sheik. The Giant and the Hulkster were fast friends—then.



ner, waded through his Mania 2 Battle Royal.

as he cleared the canvas, rocketing bodies into the audience.

A year ago, in *WrestleMania 2's* 20-Man Over-the-Top Battle Royal in Chicago, Andre competed against some of the most skilled wrestlers in the WWF as well as tough gridiron opponents from the NFL. In the end, Big John Studd, Bill Fricke and even William "The Refrigerator" Perry had gone over the top and out of the ring along with another dozen hungry competitors, leaving the victorious and smiling giant alone in the ring. He basked in his glory and drank in the adulation of the capacity audience, now on their feet, roaring their approval.

In Andre's mind, there has never been any doubt that he

was the Giant in the World Wrestling Federation. John Studd knows that better than anyone. Andre has traveled the world defeating all comers, but now his self-contentment has waned. Three years ago, he joyfully doused his longtime friend Hulk Hogan with champagne when Hogan defeated the Iron Sheik for the WWF Heavyweight Championship. Recently, on the third anniversary of that celebration, Andre planted the seed that perhaps Hogan's reign had been too long.

The Giant has a new quest. He wants to be World Wrestling Federation Champion. If Hogan is to retain the title, he must defeat a man never before beaten. **WF**

TALE OF THE TAPE



HULK
HOGAN

How Hulk And Andre Measure Up

WWF Champion Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant are both mighty men. But even Hogan's great stature and physique do not come near to matching Andre's overwhelming size and bulk. When their physical parameters are compared, Andre comes out on top in all but the arm department. Only in terms of biceps and forearms does Hogan outmatch the Giant. Hogan, therefore, may have greater arm strength, but Andre has the edge in all else, especially height and weight. The last-mentioned category, in fact, is where Hogan gives away the most—more, for that matter, than usual. His bout with Andre is the first title defense made by Hogan at a weight of less than 300 pounds. **WF**

Height: 7'4"
Weight: 525 lbs.

Neck: 24"

Chest: 71"

Biceps: 21"

Hands: 16"

Wrist: 11"

Forearms: 17"

Thighs: 36"

Calves: 22"

ANDRE
THE GIANT

THE PROS RATE ANDRE AND HULK

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan for the WWF World Title: *The WrestleMania III* duel could well be the most monumental struggle in the storied history of the mat wars.

Might is pitted against might. Andre is one of the Hulkster's few opponents to hold both a weight *and* height advantage. At 7 feet 5 inches and more than 500 pounds, the new, angry Andre is a horrible phantasm come to life—a monstrous, deadly Goliath. But Hogan is a wall of bronzed muscle. Like some storied fortress, he has withstood siege after siege. Dented but never destroyed.

Experience is also a factor. Although Andre has been wrestling longer, he has never held a major championship. Will the Giant's longer track record provide the edge necessary to overcome Hogan? Or will the wisdom gained through defending the belt night after night power the champion to triumph? *WWF Magazine* posed such questions to a cross-section of the WWF's standouts. Below is how the pros rate Andre and Hulk.

Bruno Sammartino: When Hulk Hogan won the belt three years ago, he changed the sport of wrestling forever. In the past, the champions seldom had Hogan's huge size. When I was champ, for instance, many of my opponents were bigger than me. I often felt like David fighting Goliath. But Hogan has only had a few opponents bigger than he is, so he usually doesn't have to worry about somebody else's size. Now, though, Hulk's really giving away size, weight, height,



Hernandez: "Hogan will fall to Andre."

reach—everything. Can he do the job? Most definitely. I know what it's like to wear that belt and take pride in it. It doesn't matter how big your opponent is; you're not giving up that gold! I defended my title against huge wrestlers like Giant Baba from Japan, Don Leo Jonathan and Gorilla Monsoon. I even wrestled Haystacks Calhoun. He weighed 601 pounds, and I picked him up. Andre's tough, but nothing's as tough as losing that belt; and

Hogan knows it. He'll fight with all his heart and soul—and win.

Hercules Hernandez: When the mighty Hercules came down to Earth to do battle with Hulk Hogan, the mortal world was given a new revelation: Hogan is weak. Not weak in the physical sense, but weak in character. He's a coward, a wimp, a crybaby. Don't you remember how I had him in the backbreaker? He was in *pain!* He was screaming! It was beautiful!



Ventura: "Work on Hogan's ribs and back."

He gave up. He crumbled. If the WWF rules committee weren't so dumb, I'd be the champion now and this story would be about me. I have been working with Andre to teach him my way of doing the backbreaker. Ooooooh, can you picture it! He'll snap Hogan in half! Millions of fans around the world are going to *laugh* at their fallen hero. And he'll have to cover up and run away. We already saw that Hogan was a mortal. When he wrestles Andre, we'll see that the big poser's not even a man.

Rowdy Roddy Piper: Yeah! It's the Hulk against Andre! People will get on line and hold their tickets—very close to their bodies so the pickpockets will stay away—and crowd into the big arena and watch those two big oxes *crash* like an atomic explosion. You're worried about a nuclear war? Don't be. Worry about how your house is gonna shake when the Hulkster and Andre fight. They're gonna punch and punch and kick and smash and whack. It's not gonna be

pretty. But it's gonna be good! Andre has one thing on his side—he's ugly. One look at his puss and you wanna run back to the dressing room. Hulk's not scared of ugliness, though. He wrestled Kamala—didn't he? Andre's gonna come at him, and Hulk's not gonna budge. He's gonna stand there in the middle of the ring and take everything that Andre gives him. Then, he's gonna pick up that big backstabbing Giant, and he's gonna slam him into the mat. And then the referee's gonna get on the canvas and lift his hand and say three words: One-Two-Three.

Big John Studd: If I ever decided that I wanted to retire, I could probably hole myself up in a room and write the definitive textbook on wrestlers' strategies. I've seen them all in the WWF, and I never forget a match. Hogan is quicker than Andre. He knows how to bounce off the canvas and take a man off his feet. If a wrestler's not careful, Hogan'll roll him up for the pin. And—I'll even admit it—his

short-arm clothesline is painful. But Andre's clothesline is more painful. And his kicks can take a man's head off. Also, Andre's angry. He finally discovered that Hogan's friendship was just Hulk's way of ducking him. Have you ever been near Andre when he was mad. I've been. He's vicious. I hope Hogan invested in some condo in Venice Beach because after this match he's gonna be living there—in a wheelchair.

Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat:

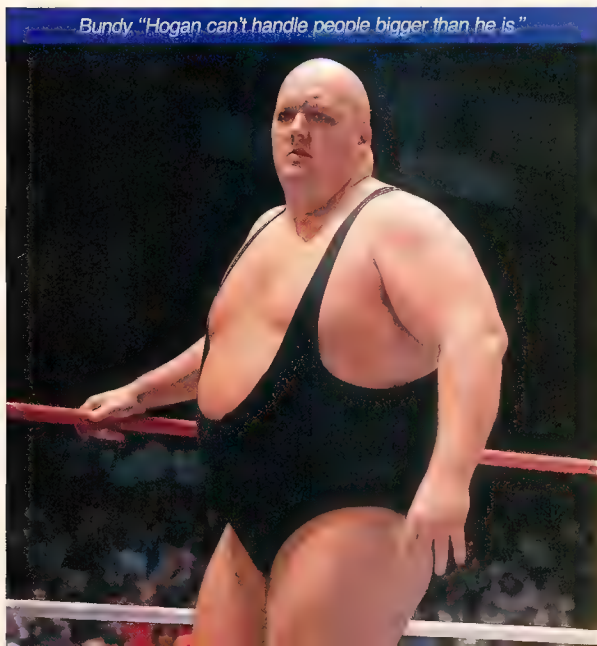
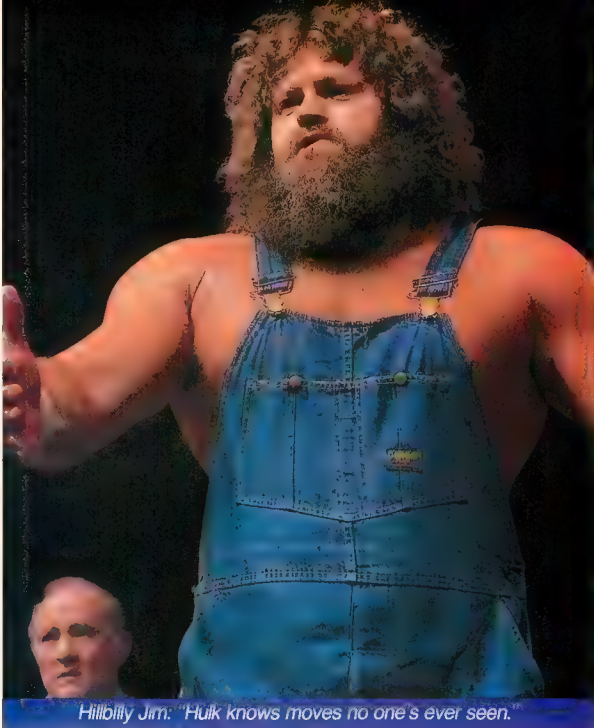
A man cannot grow unless he is tested. If you take the most available path, you will enjoy success for awhile; but it will be briefer than what you imagined. As you all know, I was recently tested by that madman Randy Savage. I retreated into the recesses of my mind and fenced with the part of me that wanted to quit. Faced with a choice and choosing the positive has made me a better wrestler. Hulk Hogan faces a similar journey every time he straps on the belt. He knows that, once he leaves the dressing room, he will encounter a desperate individual set on ruining him. It is not the easiest path to take, but Hogan keeps traveling on it and arrives home safely. His match with Andre will be no different. There will be some rough moments, but when the storm is over—the champion will retain his title.

Jesse "The Body" Ventura:

Hogan vs. Andre. History in the making. If you had asked me who would win two years ago, I'd have picked Hogan. He was still riding high then, letting the fans psych him up and wrestling adequately. But the Hulkster had a rude awakening: Cheering fans don't stop you from getting injured. He had to learn this the hard way—when King Kong Bundy practically crushed him with an avalanche a year ago. Then his so-called friend, Mr. Wonderful, drove him into the canvas with a surprise piledriver. Hercules Hernandez beat him fair and square in Hollywood, but that sap of a referee didn't hear him submit. Hogan knows, though.

He's been doubting himself. And Andre's smart, he'll work on Hogan's ribs; they haven't been the same since Bundy. And on his back—Hernandez may have hurt it more than we know. Put the champ in a corner and give him a bunch of 500 pound avalanches. The main problem I see the Giant having is accepting that the fans hate him. If he lets the crowd get on his nerves, Hogan'll capitalize and score another cheap victory. If Andre can keep his mind on the match, *HulkaMania*'s finished.

Hillbilly Jim: Ah trained with Hulk Hogan when I started in rasslin', and he was always a 100 percent fella. He's a heck of a rassler, too. You know, the Hulk's bigger 'n a barn, and a lot of fellas can't compete with his strength, so he beats 'em easy. But he has lots of moves stored away just in case. Stuff he hasn't done in the ring—he never had to. With Andre, Hulk may have to use everything he knows. Andre's huge, but Hulk is powerful enough to lift him and put him on his butt. Andre has a pretty hard head, but he never felt a Hogan



head butt. We bumped heads by accident in the gym one day, and he near knocked me out. And Hogan has the fans. This ain't no simple country boy talking—ah know thet the fans make a difference. When you're hurtin', their yells are like havin' your granny there to kiss your bruised knee. Andre's made the fans madder 'n heck, and they're gonna let him know it. They're gonna holler and holler till he's taught a lesson. Then, ah hope thet Giant gets up off 'er the mat, sticks out his hand and tells the champ he's sorry this mess ever happened. But, ah'll confess, ah'm feelin' a little uneasy for the Hulkster. These guys have been friends, and ah know for sure that the champ hurts inside at this turn of events.

King Kong Bundy: I beat Hogan but was cheated out of it. Hogan can't handle really big men. If Andre keeps on him and gets to his ribs, then that's all, brother. **WF**



86/87



MERCHANDISE

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2

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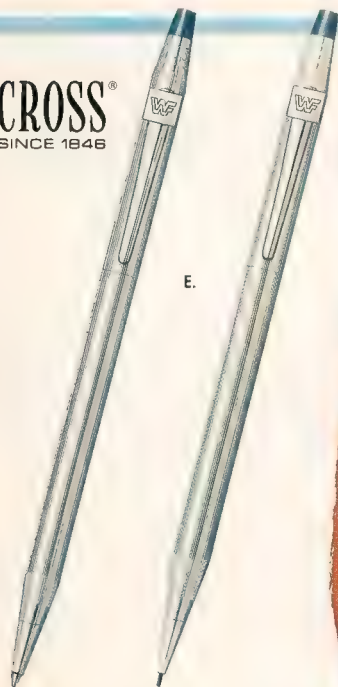
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6



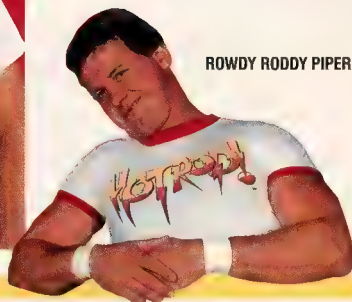
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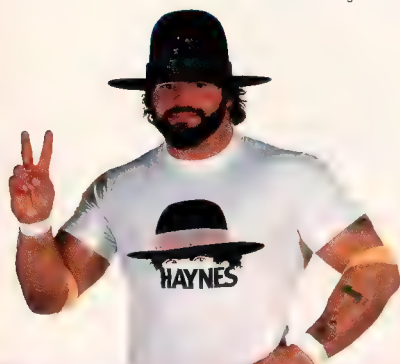
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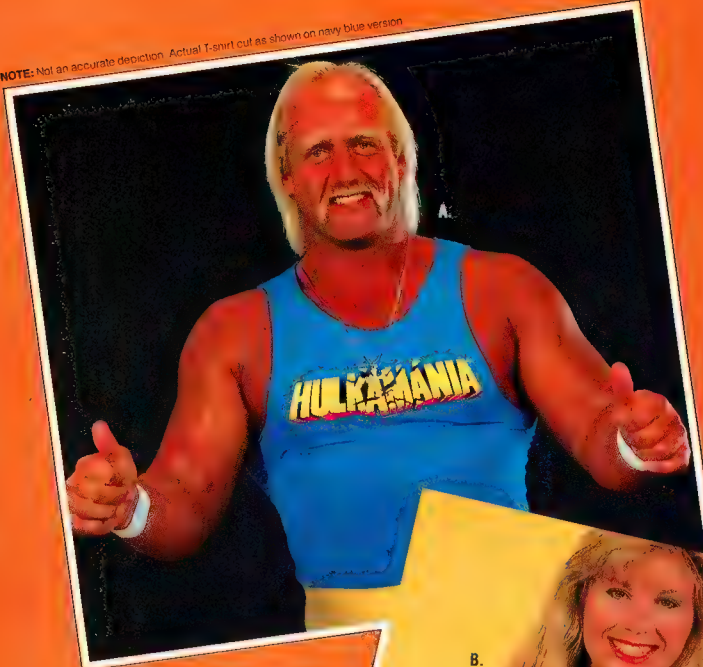
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NOTE: Not an accurate depiction. Actual T-shirt cut as shown on navy blue version



B.



C.

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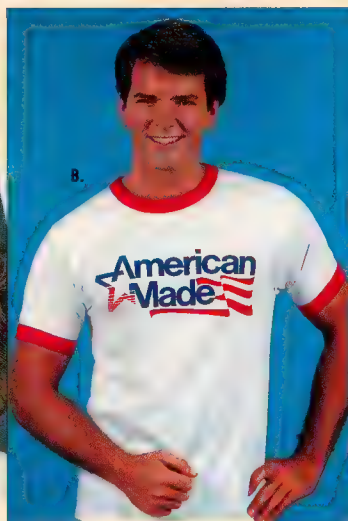
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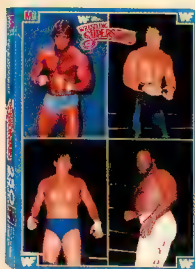


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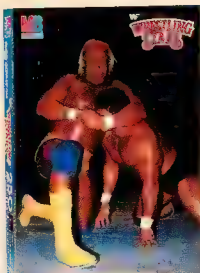
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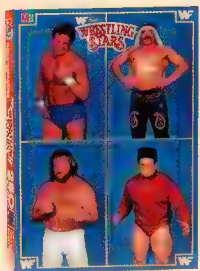
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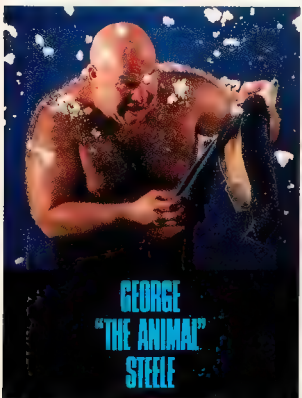


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	"	18100MBL med.	"			The Machines T-Shirt	010800WS small	\$11.95	
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	"	1810XLBL x-lg.	"			"	010800WL lg.	"	
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HART FOUNDATION TAKES TAG TEAM TITLE

Bulldogs Lose Amid Davis Controversy

The Hart Foundation took the World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Championship from the British Bulldogs in a bewildering match that has led to the banning of Danny Davis as a referee and his emergence as a wrestler. Davis, who had become the most disliked and controversial official in the WWF because of his obviously questionable decisions and behavior in the ring, ignored a pin of the Foundation's Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart, then allowed an illegal double-team that led to a three-count against Bulldog Davey Boy Smith.

This is how it happened. Davey Boy Smith and the Dynamite Kid, accompanied by their mascot Matilda, made their way from the dressing room to the ring amidst the thundering ovation of thousands of fans in the arena. They were there to defend their title against the tough and ambitious Hart Foundation, led by "Mouth of the South" Jimmy Hart. Hart had his scenario well thought out and his scheme well planned. Davey Boy entered the ring first, with

Dynamite and Matilda entering right behind him. Hart seized his moment and, as Danny Davis conveniently took the other way, the "Mouth" clobbered Dynamite on the head with his megaphone, sending the tag team titleholder unconscious to the floor. It all happened in an instant. Davey Boy never knew what happened. Matilda, spying Hart and Neidhart, charged across the ring, sending them both running.

From that moment, the bout was out of control. Davis paid little attention to goings-on in the ring and instead stood over the Kid, demanding that he get to his corner even though he was still out cold from the illegal blow.

Alone between the ropes, Smith found himself under a double assault from Neidhart and Hart. But the Bulldog moved like a tornado, lashing out with fists and feet, battering with vicious head butts and striking from the air with flying dropkicks.

Within seconds, Smith had the Foundation reeling. Moving in on







Gilts orders unconscious Dynamite Kid to corner



Davey Boy puts the Foundation's heads together

Neidhart, Smith heaved him from the ring. After Neidhart regained the ring, Davey Boy smashed his skull against Hart's. Then acting quickly, Davey Boy drop-kicked Hart through the ropes to the arena floor, evening the odds within the ring.

Smith then had Neidhart all to himself. He seized Neidhart power-

fully, raised him in the air and brought the Anvil's squat body down with a thunderous power-slam. The force of the blow took the starch out of Neidhart. Smith easily covered him for the pin—except that there was no pin. Referee Davis was still out of the ring, motioning for the unconscious Kid to get up.

Meanwhile, the Hit Man had re-entered the ring, and Neidhart broke out of the cover. Snarling, they both hit Smith at once, overwhelming him. Davey Boy rocked as he was struck with a rain of savage blows from the fists, elbows and feet of the Foundation. Softened up, he was an easy target for a Foundation special,



The Foundation goes to work on Davey Boy



Smith covers Neidhart—the pin that never was



Smith scoring hard with flying dropkick

the two-man clothesline. Neidhart grabbed the groggy Smith around the waist in a bearhug, hoisting him high enough into the air so that his shoulders, neck and head were a clear target for the hurtling Hit Man's clothesline. Davey Boy's entire upper body snapped back at the force of the blow. When his body slammed into the mat, Neidhart instantly pounced on him for the cover pin, and Davis was conspicuously ring center for a quick count out.

Jimmy Hart didn't even wait for the referee to raise the hands of the Foundation in victory. He snatched up the title belt and held it in the air as he danced like a madman around the ring. As improper as it seemed, the decision was final; and the Foundation had the title.

WWF President, Jack Tunney was flooded with complaints about Davis and took the matter before

the WWF Board of Governors. A week after the title bout, Tunney was being interviewed by a newsman in front of a WWF dressing room where he was about to make a statement relative to the WWF's decision on Danny Davis. As Tunney began to speak, he spotted Davis heading toward the ring as if to officiate. Tunney raced after Davis, yelling to security guards, "Stop that man! Stop that man!" But Davis proceeded to enter the ring as if to officiate the match between Tito Santana and Terry Gibbs. The assigned referee was in the ring, and the bout was ready to begin. Davis, meanwhile, was trying to argue and shove the other referee out of the ring. Santana, outraged at Davis' interference, shouted at him to leave the scene. From prior experience, Santana knew what kind of biased officiating Davis was apt to render. By now, Tunney had reached

ringside and motioned for the ring announcer's microphone. Tunney angrily shouted the WWF's decision on Davis into the microphone, "Danny Davis is barred from refereeing for life!"

Davis exploded with rage, gesturing violently at Tunney. For a moment, it looked as if Davis was about to jump from the ring and physically assault Tunney. Santana, however, got in the way. But Davis did not back down. It seemed as if the wrestler and ex-ref would trade blows.

Another shocker, however, prevented a brawl. From nowhere, Jimmy Hart appeared, jumped into the ring, grabbed Davis by the arm and calmed him down. Then Hart led Davis from the arena.

In the weeks that followed, more surprises were yet to come. As wrestling fans and officials alike were still shaking their heads over the Davis affair, Hart



The Anvil pins Smith—Davis saw this one

announced that Danny had signed on with the Hart Foundation. The announcement was made at ringside before the first title defense by the Foundation, against the Islanders, Haku and Tama. Strutting about at Hart's side was Davis, clad in black-and-white striped boots and trunks, in mockery of uniforms worn by some sports referees.

During the match between the Islanders and the Foundation, Davis stood near Hart at ringside. The match was a jarring battle. After the tide had changed several times, it appeared as if the Foundation would lose its title at its first defense. Haku had pounded the Hit Man to the mat,

where he lay almost out, ripe for a pin. But instead of going immediately for the pin, the Islander let his emotions get control of his judgment and danced about in premature victory. Then, to give the honor of the pin to his partner, Haku tagged Tama.

Tama climbed to the top rope and stood poised, ready to smash down on Hart, who was beginning to shake off his grogginess. As Tama leapt into the air, Danny Davis suddenly stood up on the ring apron and hooked the Islander's leg. Tama crashed to the canvas and lay there quivering, knocked out.

In the midst of the melee,

Neidhart entered the ropes. Distracted and confused, the referee lost control for a moment and then turned to see Neidhart covering Tama. The official counted three, and the Harts retained their title. Davis had struck again.

As of this writing, Davis has not actually wrestled. He has been a ringside observer and conspirator with Jimmy Hart. However, the match has been signed for *WrestleMania III* when Davis will be put to the test as he joins Neidhart and Hit Man against the Bulldogs and Santana in a six-man tag team match (see story this issue) which promises to be a real sizzler. **WF**

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WIN, LOSE OR DRAW

Roddy Will Retire

An era is ending. A bell will clang, and it will be over. And professional wrestling never will be the same.

Rowdy Roddy Piper will hang up his wrestling boots after his do-or-die match with Adorable Adrian Adonis at *WrestleMania III*.

Piper has shocked the wrestling world—indeed, the entire world—with his announcement that his grudge bout with Adonis will be the last time the Rowdy One will be seen in the ring. And, asserts Piper, he will stick to his vow to quit, “win, lose or draw.”

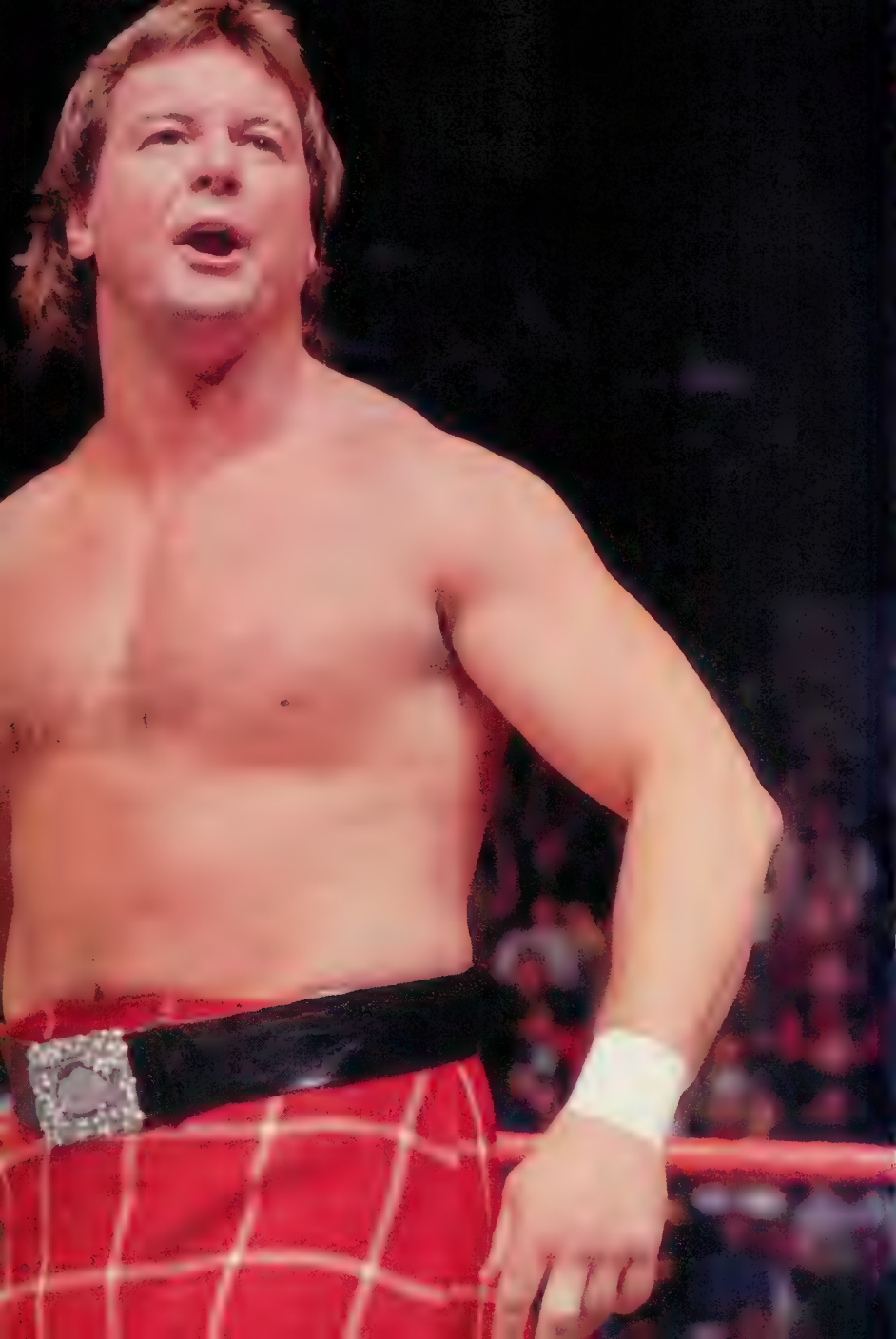
The Rowdy One's exit from professional wrestling typifies the way he has always lived, in and out of the ring. He will go out amidst boiling controversy and, in all likelihood, with white-hot fury. He will leave either as undisputed conqueror or totally humbled and defeated. There is no middle ground. It's winner take all. Piper always plays for the highest stakes. He goes to the limit, does it bigger than life. He does it his way. And his way is to make waves. Piper is boisterous. Intense. Spirited. And, most importantly, whatever he does, he gives his all.

Deciding to go out in a blaze of excitement, that's pure Piper. And exciting it will be for the fans because no one has ever riled up Roddy as much as Adonis. Their meeting between the ropes will be violent, venomous and vicious. Things are likely to happen that wrestling fans have never before witnessed.

All the elements are there for a horrific brawl. Adonis, with his lardy outside, is hard and cold inside.



Adonis waits in safety outside the ring while Piper snarls his defiance



His heart is a bowl of poison; his mind, a switchblade. Piper, intelligent and vocal, is given to volcanic rages. Aroused, pride wounded, he fears nothing. He flings body and soul at the enemy as if invulnerable to pain and destruction, which Adonis already has proved is not the case.

Adonis has been Piper's nemesis. He is the only person who has ever truly humiliated Piper. Roddy, the fiery Scot who never says die, who always lands on his feet, has been bested and brutalized by Adonis. Not once, but several times, and for all to see.

Turning on Piper like a scorpion, Adrian has ambushed him on his own television program, *Piper's Pit*. A hand extended in alleged friendship by Adonis closed to a mailed fist. Wrestling fans have seen it all. Old allies of Piper — the Magnificent Muraco and Cowboy Bob Orton — have ripped off masks of friendship and turned on Roddy. In full view of the television cameras, they assaulted him, broke him and left him quivering in agony on the floor, where Adonis administered a few parting kicks, which savaged Piper's monumental pride as much as his sturdy body.

Adonis' assaults were spawned by envy over Piper's great popularity and, insiders say, the fact that Piper commands a much greater purse than Adonis. Piper became a symbol of success that turned Adonis green. So Adrian set out to tear down the symbol.

Seeking vengeance against Adonis in the ring on a *Saturday Night's Main Event*, Piper let his temper get the better of him and, losing his cool, was suckered by Adrian and his scrawny manager, Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart. A raging Piper went after Hart outside the ring. As Piper beat on the yowling Hart, Adonis crept up and took Roddy unawares. The Adorable One had armed himself with the sprayer, with which Hart deodorizes the ring before Adonis' entry. Adonis sprayed Piper in the face with a substance that blinded him. While Piper staggered, rubbing his eyes in pain, Adonis



Before a nation!



television audience. Ripper makes Adonis crawl

climbed back into the ring and was declared the winner by the referee. Piper had suffered yet another blow to body and, more tellingly, pride at the hands of Adonis.

Piper has admitted it on national television. "I've made many mistakes," he said. "I'm only human. But never, never, never as bad as the mistake with Adonis."

When he talks about Adonis, Piper's face goes livid. His eyes burn. His mouth warps into a grimace of ultimate hatred. Spit flies, punctuating every word he says. He verges on a loss of control.

"Adonis, Adonis, Adonis," Piper screams. "You know what I think of Adonis, don't you? Scum. Trash. Wormy. Scudsy. A slime-ball and sleaze. If Roddy Piper ever does anything with his life, it will be to take out Adrian Adonis. I'll waste that disgusting creature, and then I won't wrestle anymore. Ever." The Adorable One stands for all Piper despises. In Piper's mind, Adonis has trashed the sport of kings, the profession to which Piper has devoted his life's blood, figuratively and literally. Thus, you can expect Piper to focus all of his incredible energy and intensity on this one match. For him, it is his entire career.

Few people, save for a handful of sickies, question that Adonis casts an unhealthy shadow upon professional wrestling. He devours what is fine about the sport and spits it out in a form most foul. Behind Adonis' simper and his sugary smile are calculated cunning and evil. He revels in things most vile. At least, that's what Roddy Piper believes. Adonis repulses Piper. Piper cannot even say his name without his mouth curling in disgust.

More than ever before during his tenure in the ring, Piper has a point to prove. If he does not conquer, all of his other accomplishments in the ring mean nothing. And what accomplishments they were. Piper, the irreverent troublemaker, has gone up against the best in the WWF. He has challenged WWF Champion Hulk



Hot after Hart, Piper



is Pearl Harbored by Adonis and headed for humiliation



Adonis and cronies batter Piper: The television crowd on hand for Piper's Pit caught the unexpected attack

Hogan and come close to taking the belt. He has come from behind again and again against adversity. And, because he is so much his own man, fans who have booed him one moment have cheered him the next. He has typified the proud, aloof loner, a man of total independence, and even many of his enemies have respected him for that.

Not Adrian Adonis, however. He scorns Piper. He sneers at the man. "That boy is a boob," says Adonis. "He's nothing but a clown. He belongs in the circus, with a big red nose and a wig on his head."

Whatever he says, Adonis is taking Piper seriously. Adrian is training like never before, working on speed. Despite his blubbery figure, Adonis is one of the quick-

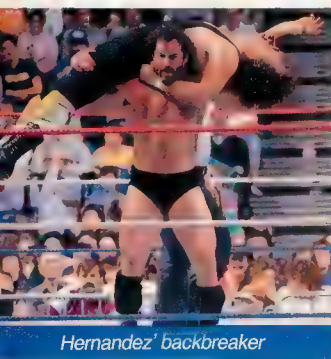
est men in the ring today. And the quicker he gets, the more chance he has to defeat Piper.

Knowing Hart and Adonis, moreover, they assuredly are cooking up distractions and dirty tricks that will tip the scales in their favor. For Piper, the street-wise and scarred veteran of innumerable brutal battles, his last confrontation will be his greatest challenge. **WF**

BEST FINISHERS

Wrestlers who compete in the World Wrestling Federation are at the peak of their sport. In order to achieve in the WWF, they must perfect their skills and adapt their ring tactics to their own particular physical and psychological abilities. Nowhere is this more evident than in the holds and maneuvers that are used to finish off opponents by setting them up for the pin or forcing them to submit. This issue, we offer a look at favorite and most successful finishers used by some of the WWF's top athletes.

* * *



Hernandez' backbreaker

Hercules Hernandez: Few men have ever been caught in Hernandez' backbreaker and survived without submitting. Increasingly, however, Hernandez is taking a cue from foe Billy Jack Haynes and also using a potent full nelson.



Haynes' full nelson

Billy Jack Haynes: Haynes calls himself the "master of the full nelson." Indeed, he may be. He uses his quickness to catch his opponent in the hold, and his strength to apply it with immense pressure.

* * *

Cowboy Bob Orton: One of the most scientifically skilled grapplers of all time, he takes the fight out of opponents with his superplex, a suplex off the top ropes. Few other wrestlers can carry out this tactic.

* * *

The Iron Sheik: The Sheik's camel clutch is one of the most feared holds in wrestling. Opponents usually can take only a few seconds in the Iranian's clutches before they throw in the towel.

* * *

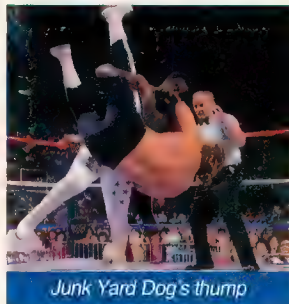
Greg "The Hammer" Valentine: Others have tried, but no one else can put on the figure four leglock with such devastating results as Valentine. His expertise has come from years of practice and study of the hold.

Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat: Ricky uses a variety of finishers, but perhaps his best—and most spectacular—is his flying bodypress off the top rope.

* * *

Mike Rotundo: Rotundo has a patent on the airplane spin. It's a move few wrestlers use today, and none with the effectiveness of Rotundo.

* * *



Junk Yard Dog's thump

The Junk Yard Dog: "Thump" goes the Dog, and out goes his opponent. JYD's thump is his own version of the powerslam.

* * *

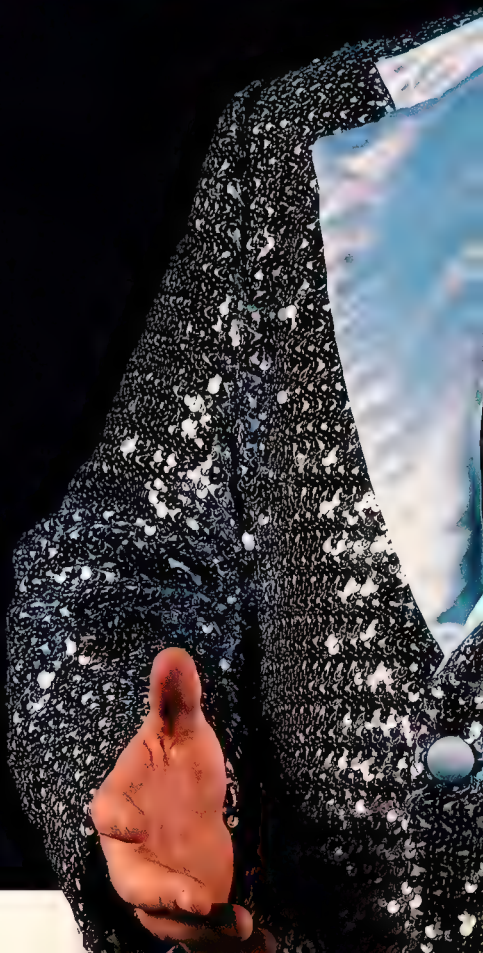
Randy "Macho Man" Savage: If an opponent is tossed out of the ring, he becomes a target for Savage's unique flying elbow smash off the top rope. It's a spectacular move and one of the most damaging.

* * *

We'd like to hear readers' selections for great finishing holds and maneuvers. Mail your selections to:

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"HULKAMANIA IS DEAD"





Heenan Vows To End Hogan's Reign At *WrestleMania III*

67

After years of calculating, cogitating and conniving, Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is on the verge of having it all. He is only a three-count away from attaining the ultimate achievement of a World Wrestling Federation manager — and the goal that has become his life's obsession. The WWF World Title, now held by Hulk Hogan, is within Heenan's grasp or, more accurately, the gargantuan grasp of his mammoth henchman, Andre the Giant.

"*Hulkamania* is dead," crows Heenan. "*Hulkamania* is dead, and Hogan doesn't even know it yet. But he will when Andre looks down on him at *WrestleMania III*. Andre is going to squash Hogan, and I'll bet that Jimmy the Greek would not make odds on Hogan's chances."

The odds against the champ are steep. Hogan is putting his title on the line against the seemingly invincible Giant in the match that tops the card in the upcoming March 29 *WrestleMania III* card. Even Hogan admits that he has never faced such an overwhelming challenge as posed by the mountainous Frenchman, who has never known defeat in the professional wrestling ring.



Never defeated, Andre stands victorious after the Battle Royal
in WrestleMania 2. In him, Hogan faces the world's greatest athlete.



Hercules Hernandez pushed Hogan to the edge with a backbreaker. Some observers thought Hogan had even submitted but that the referee simply did not hear him.

Hogan has faced many challengers who were capable of wresting his crown from him. Indeed, it takes a superb athlete to reach the rarified level at which a title shot is even granted by the WWF hierarchy. Awesome as they were, the Hulkster has beaten them all.

But Andre is something else again. He is a man many have called the world's greatest athlete, an overpowering presence who seems to hark back to the days when, legends say, giants walked

the Earth. Andre has never been beaten, not by any single opponent, and not in the thunderous donnybrooks of WWF battle royals. In *WrestleMania 2*, for instance, he emerged the victor from a battle royal that included not only wrestling greats but some of the biggest, toughest brawlers from the National Football League. Andre waded through some of the most formidable men in the world, tossing them about like children. In the end, only the Giant stood in the ring.

If Andre is not enough of a threat to Hogan, the champ must also reckon with the managerial genius of Heenan, the consummate manipulator, superior schemer and prince of planners. Although some people may mock Heenan's self-bestowed nickname of the Brain by calling him "Weasel," he undeniably has a supercharged intelligence. And he has the ability to focus all his physical and mental energies on a single goal—in this case bringing Hogan to his knees and ripping the champion-

Hogan must beat more than Andre. From his stable of brutes, Heenan can call upon the experience of Bundy, Studd and Orndorff to aid the Giant with training and advice.

ship belt from his waist.

Like a spider, Heenan has been patient. He has tried and tried again to topple the Hulkster. Think about it. Whenever a wrestler has appeared who seemed potentially endowed head and shoulders above the rest, Heenan has ingratiated himself with the man and brought him under the power of the Brain. Big John Studd. King Kong Bundy. Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff. Hercules Hernandez. Heenan worked with them, shaped them and then launched them against the target who has always proven elusive—a towering, stalwart man of love and courage who refuses to break.

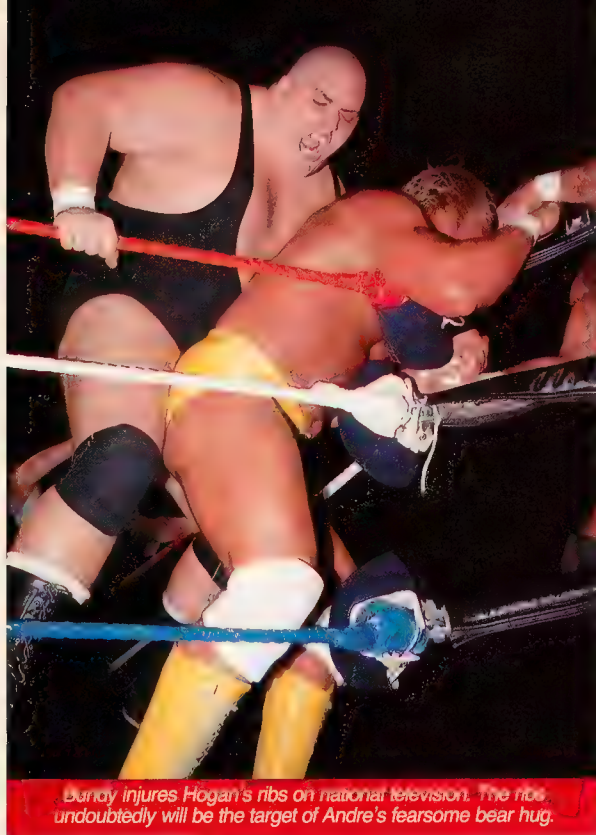
Heenan has come close each time but been thwarted by the Hulkster's resilience, empathy with his Hulkamaniacs and, perhaps, the kind hand of fate. Hogan has drawn upon a strength against adversity that has astonished the world and frustrated Heenan.

Although victory has been in his grasp several times, Heenan has ultimately been handed defeat, but he has masterfully played for time. Calling on the myriad resources of his mind, he has woven a web of intrigue and deception to ensnare Hogan in a trap that even his mighty heart and sinews may not be able to break. Spawned by envy, hatred and greed, Heenan's master plan for the Hulkster's destruction is close to fruition.

Heenan has shrewdly watched



Orndorff poses after downing Hogan with a low blow in one of their confrontations. "I've got lots of advice for Andre," says Orndorff.



Bundy injures Hogan's ribs on national television. The ribs, undoubtedly will be the target of Andre's fearsome bear hug.



Studd: "I know Hogan's weaknesses."

powers in the WWF like Hogan. He has them in his pocket. Andre has always been the real champion, the man who should wear the belt. But the WWF never gave him the chance because they know he could beat Hogan as easily as I'd swat a fly. But now, I've given them no choice. Hogan must face Andre or quit. Andre knows that I've made this possible. So we're together. No more *Hulkamania*. It's time for reality. And reality is that no one in the world can beat the Giant."

Beat the Giant? Hogan must beat more than Andre. He has his stable of brutes. Heenan can call upon the experience of Bundy, Studd and Orndorff to aid the Giant with training and advice. Heenan planned well. John Studd has wrestled Hogan to within an inch of the title. King Kong Bundy — remember *WrestleMania 2* — has broken Hogan's body, damaging his ribs so badly that the champion retained his crown only by calling on reserves of strength and fortitude that left even the Hulkster wondering how he did it. Hernandez, using his feared back-breaker, has come closer than anyone to forcing a submission from Hogan. And Orndorff turned on Hogan and tested him to the limit. All of them have pushed Hogan to the edge. They know how to hit the Hulkster where it hurts most. They remember openings in Hogan's defense. They know how to get at him. Ironically, they all, in the past, also have gone up against Andre, so they can assess his abilities and how they stack up against the Hulkster's.

Heenan, it seems, has put the whole deck together and stacked it against Hogan. All the cards seem to be in Heenan's hands. He is close, ever so close. If he plays his cards well, Bobby Heenan could not only have his ultimate victory but go down in the books as the greatest wrestling manager of all time. The only thing standing in his way, as always, is a proven champion with a huge heart, who draws his strength from the people. **WF**

Andre as the one man in the WWF with an ability to win at least on a par with Hogan. Who is the only man in the WWF who by sheer physical strength and size has a chance of overcoming Andre's combination of bodily might and spiritual courage? Only one. The man who seems more than a man, Andre.

In this stoic colossus, Heenan saw his future. The Brain waited and waited. When the time was ripe — when Andre was ready — the Brain made his move. He courted the Giant, played on his ambitions and won him over.

"I told Andre that I was the only one who could get him what he wanted," says Heenan. "I'm the world's best wrestling manager. I could get him Hogan's belt and the glory that goes with it. The

HART FOUNDATION T AGAINST BULLDOGS

The news is out. The British Bulldogs and Tito Santana will battle the Hart Foundation, new World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Champs, and Danny Davis, referee-turned-wrestler, at *WrestleMania III*.

The match does not give the Bulldogs a chance to take back the title, which they recently lost to the Foundation (Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart and Bret "Hit Man" Hart). The tag team belts do not change hands in six-man matches. But the Bulldogs say the match will offer them a chance for vengeance, not just on the Foundation but also on Davis, who refereed the title clash and, in the eyes of the Bulldogs and most of the world, threw it to Hart and Neidhart. After the match, WWF President Jack Tunney barred Davis for life from refereeing.

"We didn't lose," contends Bulldog Davey Boy Smith. "Davis stole our title. We'll get it back, but that means wrestling Hart and Neidhart only. We want Davis, too, so we agreed to the *WrestleMania III* bout."

"We couldn't do anything to Davis because he was a referee," adds Smith's rugged partner, the Dynamite Kid. "But he's put on the tights. Now he's just like us. And he's fair game."

Smith and the Kid say they gave considerable thought to picking a partner for the *WrestleMania III* confrontation. They chose Santana, they explain, because he is vastly experienced at high-level competition and has a reputation for great courage under fire. He has also been the victim of Davis' unjust refereeing and has his



Matilda, the English bulldog sidekick of Davey Boy Smith and the Dynamite Kid

TEAMS WITH DAVIS AND SANTANA

73



Kid, makes no bones about what she thinks of the Foundation. Photo from a match previous to the title battle.

"We didn't lose," contends Bulldog Davey Boy Smith. "Davis stole our title. We'll get it back, but that means wrestling Hart and Neidhart only. We want Davis, too, so we agreed to the *WrestleMania III* bout."

own ax to grind.

The Bulldogs are probably the quickest, most agile tag team in the sport. Santana also has blinding speed, which he shows in bursts during a bout. Together, the three of them will far outmatch the Foundation and Davis in the quickness department.

This is not to say that the Foundation does not have quickness of its own. The Hit Man can move, and he is a superb scientific wrestler. Neidhart, on the other hand, relies on brute strength and raw power rather than speed. Davis, who has a powerful build, is still pretty much of an unknown quantity.

A big question mark is what Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart, manager of the Foundation and Davis, has up his sleeve. Hart is notorious for interfering in matches one way or another to give his people the edge. One of his favorite plays is distracting the referee by his constant antics and chatter at ringside.

If Hart does plan to work on the referee, Davis, as a former official, can give Hart plenty of advice on the pressures a referee feels during a bout and how to use them to fluster an official. Having a wrestler who has had lengthy officiating experience is a vast



Hart and Neidhart in a classic double team. The Foundation has



immense power and great coordination. Davis has been worked into the attack for WrestleMania III.



Neidhart stalks the ringside in a bout late last year, while Davis seems to be running interference. Was a deal in the works even then?



Smith, left, Matilda, and the Dynamite Kid—out for revenge.



Santana. He will add even more speed to the Bulldogs' assault.

plus for Hart, an advantage that is unique in the WWF.

Hart, as usual, denies that he has any plans to try something sneaky. "Hey, baby," he says, "who needs to be sneaky? Not us. We beat the Bulldogs already. If they want more of the same, that's cool. One thing, though. If they bring that mutt (Matilda, their English bulldog) with them, they'd better carry a poop scoop."

Hart may joke about Matilda and seem totally confident about the match, but insiders say he is working his team hard to prepare for it. He knows that his men must be able to work smoothly together as a team. "We're all nasty, and that's what I like," says Neidhart. "Davis is a natural. WWF fans may be in for a few surprises when the ref climbs into the ring with tights."

Tito and the Bulldogs, on the other hand, have had less time to learn to work as a unit, the single most important factor in tag team competition. Santana, as the third

man, has to work himself into the Bulldogs' ring system. He will have to concentrate hard to do it in time. However, Tito is an accomplished wrestler, whereas Davis is a novice. It stands to reason that the Bulldog/Santana team could come up to speed much faster. Meshing with a new team member is far less complex than schooling and training a wrestler from the start.

One advantage that the Hart Foundation will have, however, is that they will teach Davis "their way." "He won't have to fight his own style," says Hart. "We'll fit him into our machine just like a new gear. When we turn on the engine, baby, Va-Voom! Davis is going to be hot...I'm going to make him hot. I already like his character...he doesn't play by the rules."

Tito is ready, and so are the Bulldogs. There is no doubt that this six-man match-up will be one of the most grueling matches of *WrestleMania III*. **WF**

WWF Wrap Up

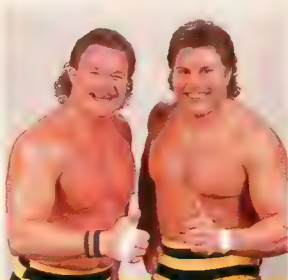
There was a need for it, for sure. Since the formation of the Official WWF Fan Club was announced, thousands of fans have responded with interest. Fans who have joined as charter members for a year have received several exciting benefits, including a poster, pin, membership certificate and a welcome letter signed by WWF stars. See the advertisement in this issue for more details.

Big John Studd is making some big moves as a part-time actor. Studd seems perfectly type-cast for the roles. He has played a Soviet KGB agent in a made-for-television Disney motion picture, *Secret Agent*, and has played a nasty leader of a far-right group of subversives on the series *Hunter* over NBC television, which stars former NFL star Fred Dryer as a tough cop. Studd appeared as an unlikely individual named "Randy" (nothing to do with you, Mr. Savage), one of the key figures in the gang. Hunter is kidnapped by the gang, but in the end justice

triumphs.

Rowdy Roddy Piper is the latest in a string of WWF stars (John Studd, Hillbilly Jim, Jimmy Hart) to appear on the popular Soupy Sales radio show over New York City's WNBC. The Rowdy One took telephone calls from listeners.

So many people showed up for a recent appearance by the Killer Bees at an outlet for Coliseum Video's WWF video cassettes in Brooklyn, N.Y., that they were lined up for several blocks. Among other



Crowd pleasers: Killer Bees

WWFers making personal appearances recently are King Kong Bundy and Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat. Bundy showed up at the Detroit *Autorama* and *Speed Sport '87* in Toronto; and Steamboat, at the New Orleans *World of Wheels*.

They say a dog can tell a lot about a person by instinct. Well, there's one smart pooch when it comes to Randy "Macho Man" Savage. Savage was present on the set with other WWF stars during the making of a commercial for the LJN line of WWF action figures. One member of the production crew had brought his dog along. The pup stayed quiet while the WWFers did their thing. Not even Kamala, the giant Ugandan Headhunter, phased fido. Enter Savage. The moment he walked on camera, the dog began to howl and wail as though the devil himself had made an appearance. Clever critter.

Philadelphia '76er fans were treated to a pair of top match-ups between WWF grapplers after a



Sales, left, and Piper at WNBC Studios



The Sixer's Dr. J says "Go Koko."

recent game at the Spectrum in that city. The Magnificent Muraco went up against George "The Animal" Steele, and Koko B. Ware pitted his skill and speed against the brute strength of Hercules Hernandez. **WF**

WRESTLER'S **REBUTTAL**

Anybody who competes in the WWF without a good manager is a humanoid jerk. Wrestlers who don't have managers deserve to get their necks wrung, and they usually do. A wrestler needs a manager to do the negotiating, map strategy and keep an eye on things in and out of the ring. That way, the wrestler can keep his own mind on his end of the business—what goes on

between the ropes.

A manager can also help a wrestler by making sure WWF officials don't play favorites. And, I can tell you for sure, some of them do. Just look at how they treat Hulk Hogan, the blond dud—I said "dud," and I meant "dud" not "dude." Hogan gets anything he wants. The right matches, the big purses and, worst of all, favorable decisions in the ring. A manager

who knows what it's all about can keep people in power from playing favorites.

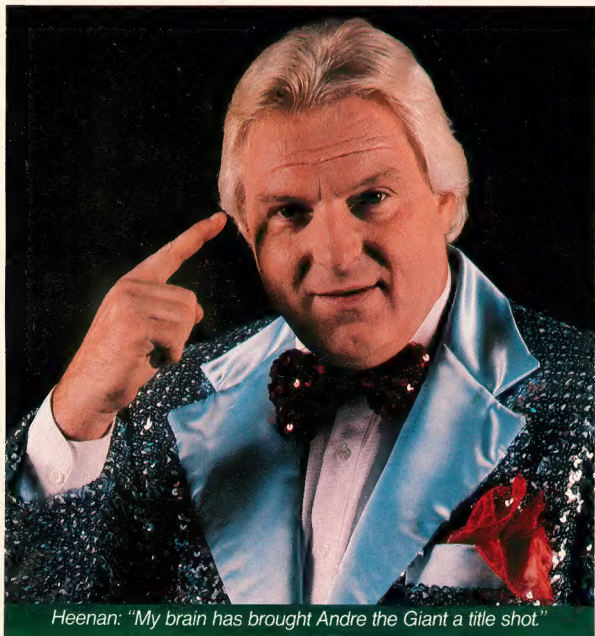
A good manager can also take a wrestler who has the talent but doesn't know how to use it and make him a champion. A manager has got to be a good judge of horseflesh. Look over the crop, and pick out people with potential. Then work on their strengths, and do away with their weaknesses.

Another role of the manager is to understand the competition. Know the opponent's faults so you can take advantage of them. Know what your man should stay away from.

One thing's important. There are managers, and then there are managers. Some of them are worthless. Others—like me—are worth all the money in the world. You need a manager who knows wrestling and the people in it. He's got to have a good head for figures and be tough at the negotiating table. And he's got to be smart, super-smart.

Of course, top managers will only handle men who have real possibilities. Why waste time on losers? Speaking for myself, I want wrestlers who can go to the top and stay there. Who will win big purses, for them and me, too.

There have been lots of arguments about who's the best manager in the WWF. I can tell you who. He's known as "The Brain." Nobody comes near him in skill and smarts. If you can get a manager only half as good as Bobby Heenan, you're in good shape. **WF**



Heenan: "My brain has brought Andre the Giant a title shot."

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